



## State of New Jersey

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### **Guidance for District and School Grades Determined Under the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act* (ABR) (P.L.2010, c.122)**

#### **Accessing the School and District Grades**

To access the *District and School Grade Report*, the district Homeroom administrator must open a district-level user account(s) for this project or authorize a new account to an existing district-level user by using the Homeroom Administrator Update Form located in [NJDOE Homeroom](#). If the person assigned to district-level access has remained the same, the district-level username previously assigned to the HIB Grades Report is still valid.

District-level users assigned to this project may visit the [NJDOE Homeroom](#) webpage, select the HIB Grades application, and log in to the [District Sign-In](#). Once logged in, click the blue button which reads, "Official HIB Grade Report" to access the district's report. The user must save the report as a PDF by using the print feature in the internet browser. To comply with state law, the PDF version of the 2020-2021 HIB Grades Report Official Release must be posted on the district and each school website.

**Interpreting, Publicizing, and Public Review of the Grades** **Interpreting** – [Under the Commissioner's Program for Determining Grades](#), the school grade is a raw score of data and the sum of the ratings for all indicators within each core element on the School Self-Assessment (e.g., 65 of 78 points). The maximum total score for a school is 78 points. The school district's grade is an average of the total scores of all schools in the school district.

The NJDOE-issued grade is not represented as a letter grade; the NJDOE is not issuing any associated value or ranking for the raw and average scores. The raw and average scores reflect the school and school district's degree of compliance with the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act* (ABR), as determined primarily through each school's self-assessment of its implementation of the ABR.

**Publicizing** – School districts and schools **must post the official grade reports** issued by the NJDOE without making any alterations to the PDF document. School districts and schools may choose to replace previous grade reports with the 2020-21 grade report or keep previous reports posted. When publicizing the school district or school grades determined under the ABR, districts and schools should not assign letter grades. The score for each core element must be reported as a number (e.g., 12 of 15 points for Core Element #1, 5 of 9 points for Core Element #2, etc.) and the grade must be reported as a number (e.g., the grade is 65 out of 78 points).

**Public Review of the Grades** – School district officials are required to review the district and school grades with the board of education (BOE) at a public meeting. This will provide the BOE and the public with the opportunity to learn about the district’s implementation of the ABR and address any concerns. The annual review of the BOE’s HIB policy, as required in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15c and information can assist in the annual review of harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB) prevention programs, approaches and other initiatives, as well as, required in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-17a.

When posting the grades or reporting to the BOE, district and school staff may consider including the following points or language:

- “Our school district/school has conscientiously implemented the requirements found in the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act* by *[provide examples here]*.”
- “Since the implementation of the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act*, our school district/school has made progress in addressing harassment, intimidation and bullying incidents and improving the school climate and culture by *[provide examples here]*.”
- “While completing the self-assessment, we learned that our school district/school has demonstrated strengths in these areas: *(Provide examples here]*.”
- “The self-assessment helped our school district/school to identify areas for improvement in the following areas: *[Provide examples here]*.”
- “Our school plans to further assess strengths and vulnerabilities for learning by conducting a school climate survey. We plan to *(provide examples here]*.”
- “In order to promote a positive school climate, our school is teaching students social and emotional learning skills by *[provide examples here]*.”
- “During the upcoming year, our school district/school will be working toward and seeking your involvement in improving *(provide examples here]*.”

### **Posting School and District Grades**

The official 2020-21 District and School Grade Report issued by the NJDOE on **May 11, 2022** must be posted, in the original format, or on the appropriate websites by **May 26, 2022** (i.e., within 10 days of receipt of the grades from the NJDOE). State law (N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46) requires each district post its overall district grade *and* the grade of each school in the district on the school district’s homepage. In addition, each school must post its grade *and* the district grade on the school homepage. School districts do not need to present the HIB Grade Report to the district board of education, as described above, prior to posting the report on the district and school websites. While the presentation to the BOE must occur, it may occur after the HIB Grade Report is posted on the district and school websites.